Indian Newspapers Society has reiterated its demand for total decontrol of newsprint;

(b) if so, on what grounds; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Newspaper Society has demanded total decontrol of newsprint as a part of Government's move to liberalise the economy.

(c) The Government's reaction to such issues is consistent with its policy of safeguarding the interest of the indigenous newsprint manufacturers and also the healthy growth of the Press, particularly small and medium newspapers.

New Satellite TV Channel

817. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new satellite TV channel is proposed to be started with the help of Asian Television Network;

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposed Satellite TV channel; and

(c) by when it is likely to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

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818. श्री **मोहम्मद अफजल उर्फ भीम अफजल** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा 1989–90, 1990–91 और 1991–92 के दौरान विज्ञापन और दृश्य प्रचार निदेशालय की विज्ञापनों के लिए कितनी धनराशि प्रदान की गई ;

(ख) इन वर्षों के दौरान जारी किए गए विज्ञापनों का मूल्य कितना था और उपर्युक्त वर्षों के प्रत्येक वर्ष के अंत में सरकार को कितनी धनराशि वापस की गई ; और

(ग) धनराशि सरकार को वापस किए जाने और उसे विज्ञापनों पर खर्च न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (कुमारी गिरिजा व्यास) : (क) से (ग) इन तीन वर्षों के दौरान विज्ञापनों के बजट प्रावधान इन पर किया गया वास्तविक खर्च और विज्ञापन और दृश्य प्रचार निदेशालय द्वारा अभ्यर्पित राशि का ब्यौरा इस प्रकार है :—

वर्ष	सरकार द्वारा प्रदान की गई राशि	वास्तविक व्यय	अभ्यर्पित राशि
1989–90	1064.50 लाख रु०	1064.50 लाख रु०	शून्य
1990–91	2085.22 लाख रु०	2085.22 लाख रु०	शून्य
1991–92	1998.00 लाख रु०	1422.56 लाख रु०	575.40 लाख रु०

राशि का अभ्यर्पण मुख्यत: कम्प्यूटर प्रणाली में व्यवधान की वजह से बिलों पर कार्रवाई करने में विलंब के कारण किया गया है ।

Telecast of Punjabi News from Jalandhar Doordarshan

819. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Punjab Government have recently urged the Central Government to increase tne duration of time of telecast of Punjabi News from Jalandhar Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request has been received from the Punjab Government for increase in the duration of the Punjabi News bulletin telecast from Jalandhar Kendra.

(c) Doordarshan Kendra, Jalandhar is already telecasting two news bulletins in Punjabi daily. The present duration of these bulletins is considered adequate.

Proposals for improving programmes on Welfare Schemes

820. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the celluloid media is an effective one, if so, what steps are being taken by Government to utilise the wide network of Telecast media for propagating the welfare schemes of Government to the masses; and

(b) what proposals Government have to improve Governmental or official programmes to make it more attractive and impressive?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) and (b) Doordarshan has been telecasting programmes, in different Indian languages, from various Kendras on the Welfare schemes of the Government in an attractive and effective manner regularly and would continue to do so in tne future also.

821. (*Transferred to the 21st July, 1992*).

High Power Committee on the Prasar Bharati Act

822. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high power committee headed by Additional Secretary has been studying the Prasar Bharati Act in order to make it foolproof;

(b) if so, whether the Committee has completed its study; and

(c) if so, the recommendations made and Government's decision thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS): (a) No Committee is at present engaged on this specific subject.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Handing over Second National Network Channel to Multinational Firms etc.

823. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several leading multinational firms, NRIs and a host of established Indian private sector firms are vying for the proposed Rs. 3000 crore second national network channel of Doordarshan;